



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**National Guard Day**

**WHEREAS**, the National Guard traces its origins to the militias of the 13 original English colonies in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, the oldest units were organized on December 13, 1636 by the Massachusetts Bay Colony militia; and

**WHEREAS**, this makes the National Guard the oldest component of the armed forces of the United States, and one of the oldest military organizations in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States recognized the importance of the militia in American society by writing it into our Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rhode Island National Guard remains one of our country's oldest militias, established in 1638; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rhode Island National Guard remains the second highest per-capita deployed state in the nation since September 11, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, the Soldiers and Airmen and women of the Rhode Island National Guard serve around the world in the global war on terror and closer to home in times of natural and human disaster, holding true to their motto: Always Ready, Always There; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Guard will celebrate its 375<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 13, 2011; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2011 as National Guard Day in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this Day.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011

  
**Lincoln D. Chafee**  
Governor

  
**A. Ralph Mollis**  
Secretary of State